

CONGRATULATING THE GARDNER GRADE SCHOOL CHORUS

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Gardner Grade School Chorus of Gardner, IL, on their recent performance at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL.

At the direction of Patti Johnson, the Gardner Grade School Chorus had a dream back in 1996, that it would someday have a chance to perform at Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom. After a year of research, planning, rehearsals, and raising the funds that were needed to make the trip to Orlando, the Gardner Grade School Chorus realized their dream on June 9, 1997.

The journey to Orlando by the 40 member chorus and 10 chaperones began on June 7, 1997. After saying their goodbyes to family and friends, the chorus was escorted through Gardner by the local police and fire departments as they began their 23-hour bus ride to the Magic Kingdom. In short Mr. Speaker, this was not a dream come true just for the chorus, it was a dream come true for an entire town.

On June 9, 1997 the long-awaited dream was finally fulfilled. Outlasting the Florida rain, the chorus dazzled the audience as they performed on the Tomorrowland Stage in the Magic Kingdom. The chorus performed several selections in their 25-minute performance including, "Dance, Dance, Dance", "Sea of the Cowboy", and "Footloose". On June 10 the Chorus participated in a 3-hour music education workshop at the Epcot Center, where chorus members received first hand knowledge on how Disney prepares its shows from the Disney cast.

Now as you might suspect Mr. Speaker, this trip was not all work and no play. On the final 2 days of their trip, chorus members explored the theme parks and took part in many of the activities in the Orlando area, taking advantage of a much deserved rest before returning home to Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, the Gardner Grade School Chorus had a dream that they would perform at Walt Disney World someday, and they did. Thanks to the hard work of its members, directors and chaperones, the Gardner Grade School Chorus not only realized their dream, but, they shared their dream with their parents, schoolmates, town, and the people in the audience at the Magic Kingdom. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Gardner Grade School Chorus and their very special performance at Disney World, and I ask that a list of those who participated on this trip be included in the RECORD following my statement.

DIRECTOR

Patti Johnson.

FIFTH GRADE

Carissa Crater, Jaime Wade.

SIXTH GRADE

Laura Bivens, Rhonda Brookman, Nicole DeTroye, Misti Domagala, Rachel Hanson, Lynsi Lardi, Nicci Mack, Krystle Phillips, Nikki Rowland, Jonathan Scheel, Sarah Sibley, Lauren Zagar.

SEVENTH GRADE

Brandon Carwell, Milly Chase, Tiffany Hullet, Cassie Kirkpatrick, Krystal

Lamping, Renee Moore, Jacob Olson, Carly Scheuber, Samantha Serena, Brigid Sweeney, Ashley Wade, Vicki Wayne, Mary Wollgast.

EIGHTH GRADE

Becky Christensen, Candi Forsythe, Beth Hanson, Cindy Harrop, Mindy Harvey, Meghan Holohan, David Wayne.

NINTH GRADE

Jeanette Bivens, Kathy Bolton, Elizabeth Esparza, Amber Forsythe, Mary Landers, Anne Wollgast.

CHAPERONES

Sandy Harrop, Pam Holohan, Janine Lardi, Sharon Zagar, Becci Forsythe, Mary Hanson, Jody Harop, Denise Sibley, Wendy Rowland, Greg Bingheim, Dick Johnson.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN L. SMITH

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Mr. John L. Smith of Chicago, IL, who will be retiring next month from the U.S. Small Business Administration. He has honorably served as director of the SBA's Chicago District Office of over 20 years.

Jack has been a faithful Federal employee for 46 years beginning in the U.S. Navy and then establishing his career in the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. In 1973, Jack was named Regional Administrator for the Commerce Department's Office of Minority Business Enterprise. The SBA noticed his extraordinary accomplishments as Commerce Regional Administrator and after just 2 years, Jack was appointed SBA Chicago District Director. He has been a major supporter of private sector development through his dedicated service. During his tenure, Jack oversaw several billion dollars in loans and Federal contracts to Illinois small businesses.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I am a member of the House Small Business Committee which oversees the SBA, and the retirement of one of the best directors from Illinois will certainly be a loss to the Chicago business community and to the state. Jack's experience and enthusiasm for his work will be missed greatly by business owners and public officials involved in private sector development. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, Jack dedicated his life to the community and to the SBA. Now it is our turn to thank Jack for all of the energy and dedication he expended for so many years to make Illinois a better place.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state my strong support for the 12th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day. I have long been an ardent supporter of women

athletes who use grace, strength, and discipline to break down barriers. Sports instill confidence in girls and women and equip them with important life skills such as teamwork, goal-setting, the pursuit of excellence in performance, and other achievement-oriented behaviors.

National Girls and Women in Sports Day was established in 1987 in memory of the late Flo Hyman, the Olympic volleyball champion who died suddenly in 1986.

Participants in this year's celebration include Tajama Abraham, Sacramento Monarchs center; Lillian Greene-Chamberlain, PhD, national track and field champion; Nancy Hogshead, three-time Olympic swimming gold medalist, Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, Olympic track and field champion; Nadia Comaneci, Olympic gymnastics champion; Robin Campbell, track and field Olympian; Dominique Dawes, Olympic gymnastic gold medalist; Camille Duvall-Hero, world champion water-skier; Kelly Dyer, world-champion ice hockey player; Wendy Hilliard, national rhythmic gymnastics champion; Rusty Kanokogi, highest ranking woman in judo; Nikki McCray, 1996 Olympic gold medalist and member of the newly formed WNBA Washington Mystics; Aimee Mullins, national track and field champion; Donna Richardson, fitness star, national aerobic champion; Chanda Rubin, tennis champion; Lyn St. James, champion auto racer.

At a luncheon today in the Senate Hart Building, Nadia Comaneci was given the Women's Sports Foundation's 1998 Flo Hyman Award. Every year on National Girls and Women in Sports Day, the award is given to women who exemplify the dignity, spirit, and commitment to excellence of Ms. Hyman, captain of the 1984 U.S. Olympic volleyball team.

Ms. Comaneci is the most celebrated gymnast in the history of the sport. She was the star of the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, where she won three gold medals, two silver medals, and a bronze, and became the first woman ever to score a perfect 10.

I congratulate Ms. Comaneci for her awe-inspiring achievements, and I applaud the Women's Sports Foundation for its recognition of the importance of sports for women and girls.

MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased today to see the introduction of the Burton/Archer/Thomas/Mica/Salmon legislation on medical savings accounts for federal employees. It is certainly time our federal workers have the opportunity to select a medical savings account for their health care. Over the past two years we have enacted landmark legislation that has made the choice of an MSA possible for some American workers and Medicare recipients. Now it is time to extend that option to our federal workers.

I have long been a proponent of medical savings accounts. While a state senator in Arizona I sponsored the MSA legislation that was signed into law in 1994. As a member of Congress, I have consistently introduced legislation promoting and expanding MSAs. One of my bills would allow MSAs for federal workers,